



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF **ENERGY**

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DOE Provides \$1.9 Million in Financial Assistance to University of Arkansas, Fayetteville for Cleanup Study of a Former Nuclear Reactor

Cincinnati, Ohio - The U.S. Department of Energy today provided the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville with a \$1.9 million non-competitive financial assistance award (Cooperative Agreement) that will allow the University to complete characterization work on the Southwest Experimental Fast Oxide Reactor (SEFOR). The characterization study plays a key role in the eventual cleanup of the 20-Megawatt sodium-cooled nuclear test reactor.

SEFOR is located in Strickler, Arkansas, approximately 18 miles southwest of Fayetteville. The reactor, which began operations in 1969, was constructed and operated by the Southwest Atomic Energy Associate, a group of seventeen investor-owned electric utilities. SEFOR was fueled by plutonium oxide-uranium oxide and was developed with the goal of obtaining data needed to design and operate large-scale commercial sodium-cooled reactors.

After successful completion of its experimental program in 1972, the reactor was shut down and its nuclear fuel and sodium coolants were removed and disposed off-site. Deactivation of the reactor was completed in 1974 and in 1986, the University ceased using the facility for research purposes. Currently, the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville conducts minimal surveillance and maintenance activities at SEFOR.

In the Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009, \$1.9 million was provided for the Southwest Experimental Fast Oxide Reactor Decommissioning under congressionally-directed, non-defense environmental cleanup projects. The cooperative agreement with the University is being administered for DOE's Office of Environmental Management (EM) by the EM Consolidated Business Center in Cincinnati.

Additional information on the cooperative agreement with the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, can be found at: <http://www.emcbc.doe.gov/sefor/>

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